

Claims:

1. A welding torch (10) including a torch body (27) and a drive unit (35) for conveying a welding wire (13), particularly for different wire-conveying speeds or a forward/rearward wire conveyance, as well as a hose pack (23) connected to the torch body (27) at an angle relative to a central axis (34) of said welding torch (10), wherein a wire core (32) for the welding wire (13), or the welding wire (13) itself, follows a curved course (42) to form a wire buffer storage (43), and the amount of welding wire (13) contained in the wire buffer storage (43) is adjustable by a change of said curved course, characterized in that the wire buffer storage (43) is arranged immediately after the region of connection of the hose pack (23) within the torch body (27), and that the hose pack (23) is arranged at an angle (33) of up to 90° relative to the central axis (34) of the welding torch (10).

2. A welding torch according to claim 1, characterized in that a sensor (39) is provided to capture the welding wire (13) stored in the wire buffer storage (43).

3. A welding torch according to claim 2, characterized in that a sensor (39) is arranged in front of the drive unit (35), viewed in the conveying direction of the welding wire (13).

4. A welding torch according to one or several of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the wire core (32) is arranged in the end region within the torch body (27) so as to be freely movable in the longitudinal direction.

5. A welding torch according to claim 4, characterized in that a sensor (39) is arranged to detect the movement of the wire core (32) in the freely movable end region of the wire core (32).

6. A welding torch according to claim 5, characterized in that an indicator (40) is arranged in the freely movable end region of the wire core (32), and that the sensor (39) comprises at least one coil (41) surrounding said indicator (40) and having an inductance that is changeable by the position of the indicator (40).

7. A welding torch according to one or several of

claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the wire core (32) is fixed in the region of the drive unit (35).

8. A welding torch according to one or several of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the wire core (32) terminates immediately after the region of connection of the hose pack (23) to the torch body (27), and that the welding wire (13) is subsequently arranged to extend barely as far as to the drive unit (35).

9. A welding torch according to one or several of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the wire core (32) terminates immediately after the region of connection of the hose pack (23) on the torch body (27), and that the welding wire (13) is arranged in a flexible guide hose (47) within the wire buffer storage (43).

10. A welding torch according to one or several of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that limit elements (45) are arranged in the torch body (27) to delimit the curved course of the unguided welding wire (13).

11. A welding torch according to one or several of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that the connection of

the hose pack (23) to the torch body (27) is realized by a coupling device (24).

12. A welding torch according to one or several of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the hose pack (23) is arranged to be adjustable relative to the torch body (27) so as to enable a change of the amount of welding wire (13) contained in the wire buffer storage (43) by such an adjustment.